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FAO AND AMERICAN FARMERS

Transcribed by Sir John Orr, Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; and John Baker, Chief of the Radio Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, February 28, 1946. Time: 6 minutes, 30 seconds.

SCRIPT: Ad Lib discussion.

Summary---The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization holds the promise to farmers in the United States of a continuous market---every year, at least until all the world is well-fed---for all the food products that American farmers can produce. Just as Easterners get vegetables from the West Coast...and Northerners get grapefruit from Florida and Texas...because these things are not available in the East or the North...so American wheat and dairy products, and eggs and other foods, will go to countries all over the world, wherever they're needed. And they'll go at a price that gives the farmer a fair return for his production.

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ANNOUNCER'S OPENING AND CLOSING

OPENING

ANNOUNCER (LIVE):

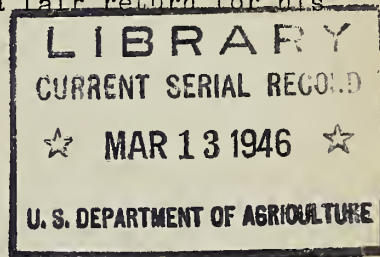
In the food emergency this spring, we've had a striking example of how much it would mean to the world to have a central place to go for reliable information on food supplies...how much food there is in the world...where it is... and how to move it quickly from the countries that have it to the countries that need it. The infant United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization holds the first promise the world has ever had to meet fully this need. And for the farmers of the United States, FAO holds another promise---the promise of continuous markets at fair prices. No one believes more firmly in these promises of FAO than its Director General, Sir John Orr, noted British scientist. And Sir John himself is going to tell you why. By transcription here he is...a guest of the U. S. Department of Agriculture with John Baker starting him off. John Baker.

CLOSING

ANNOUNCER (LIVE):

That was Sir John Orr, Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization...and John Baker of the U. S. Department of Agriculture... discussing the American farmers' stake in FAO.

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TREAT SEED GRAIN THIS YEAR

A talk by John Baker, Chief of the Radio Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Recorded February 28, 1946. Time: 6 minutes, 30 seconds, without announcer's part

TRANSCRIPTION:

BAKER: One of the biggest jobs ahead of farmers now is growing the tremendous crops of cereal grains the '46 goals call for...crops of wheat, corn, barley, and oats. So they'll want to be more careful than ever this year to plant seed that's free of disease...diseases like stinking smut, flag smut, seed rot, and seed blight that cut down crop yields very fast, once they get into your fields. If stinking smut of wheat, for instance, attacks only 1 percent of the wheat grown in the United States this year, the loss will be about 10 million bushels---that hungry people need. And stinking smut of wheat can be a severe personal loss. A single farmer or rancher may easily lose as much as 50 percent of his crop from it

In places around the country, farmers treat a lot of their seed to prevent disease---as much as 80 percent in a few cases. But for the country as a whole, a big part of the seed that go into the ground each year get no disinfection treatment whatever.

During the war, with labor and machinery both short, farmers have cut corners on seed treatment even more than they did before the war. Altogether, there's a real need this year to try to do better on treating grain seed. It means bigger crops with less effort...and even more important, it means more grain for the world's empty food bins.

In some States, farmers can get custom service to treat their seed. Portable machines will come to the farm or ranch if the treatment job is big enough to justify the trip. Or farmers can sometimes take their seed to a central treatment station. But if you can't get custom service to clean and disinfect seed grain...and most farmers can't...there's a lot you can do yourself.

For instance, it's not very hard to treat seed wheat yourself...treat it to prevent stinking smut and flag smut, and seed rots and seed blights. For a chemical, all you'll need is a mercury dust that you can buy at any seed store or farmers' supply place. It takes only a half ounce of this dust for a bushel of grain...you'll find exact directions on the container. If you don't have a mixing machine or can't arrange to use a neighbor's, well...you can roll the seed in a barrel. Or even shovel it on a 10-foot square of canvass. Then you and somebody else can take the corners and give the seed a real good shaking. It's a very good idea to treat your grain at least 24 hours before you seed it. You want to allow the disinfectant time to spread its gases all through the grain...time to do its work, in other words. There're several advantages to this mercury dust treatment. It's easy to apply, for one thing. For another, it doesn't cake in the drill...or corrode the drill parts, as copper dust does in the case of wheat.

Now smuts and seed rots and blights do about the same kind of damage to oats they do to wheat. And you can treat your seed oats the very same way...using the very same mercury dust used on wheat.



Barley fits into this picture too. Smuts attack barley...and so do seed rots and blights. The mercury dust treatment for seed wheat and oats will do just as good a job for seed barley.

Now on corn, the situation is a little different. If you use hybrid seed corn, it usually comes already treated, so of course there's no problem. But other seed corn should be treated for protection against seed rot and blight. Corn rot and blight can cause terrific losses to a farmer, especially if you're using seed of low germination. Or if you plant corn early, or put it into cold, wet ground.

Mercury dust is a good treatment for seed corn---but not the same mercury dust used for wheat, oats, and barley. This is a mercury dust made especially for treating seed corn. Or you can use another dust called arasan---arasan gives good results, too. In both cases, directions are on the containers. If you have a mixing machine to use for seed corn, fine. But if not, you can fall back on the barrel, or the canvas square we talked about for wheat.

I'm touching only part of the seed treatment story, of course. There's the formaldehyde treatment for oats and barley. And the hot-water treatment for loose smut of wheat and brown loose smut of barley. But this hot-water treatment calls for great care and special equipment to keep the right temperatures. When you get into the fine details of treating seed, it's a good idea to talk it over with the county agricultural agent...or write your State College of Agriculture.

But no matter how you go at it, it will be a fine thing to treat seed grain this year if you possibly can. You'll get a better crop, and the world will get more food.

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ANNOUNCER'S OPENING AND CLOSING

OPENING

ANNOUNCER (LIVE):

We all know the need for bigger and better crops this year...to help fill up the world's food bins after the lean years of war. When we talk about planting good seed---seed free of disease---we're literally getting to the roots of bigger and better crops. And that's the story we're going to hear right now... a transcribed story from John Baker of the United States Department of Agriculture. John.

CLOSING

ANNOUNCER (LIVE):

Folks that was John Baker of the United States Department of Agriculture ...talking about the need to treat seed grain this year to increase our crops of wheat, corn, oats and barley.

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